

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-24 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 19 are amended.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed on August 27, 2008. The RCE also included a request for suspension of action for a period of three months under 37 CFR §1.103(c), which would have postponed the next Office Action until at least November 27, 2008. Unfortunately, the Examiner issued an Office Action on November 18, 2008, i.e., before the expiration of the three month period of suspension.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office issue a new Office Action based on amended claims 13 and 19 herein, and restart the period for response.

Upon receiving the new Office Action, Applicant will respond as necessary to any further rejections issued by the Patent Office.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-116.

BANDO, Kazuaki
Appl. No. 10/529,384
December 1, 2008

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Paul T. Bowen/
Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100